

2SSB 5945 - H AMD TO APPH COMM AMD (H-3041.2/09) 606

By Representative Hinkle

WITHDRAWN 4/16/2009

1 On page 1, line 3 of the amendment, after "**Sec. 1.**" strike all  
2 material through "efforts" on line 8, and insert the following:

3 "(1) In January, 2007, the blue ribbon commission on health care  
4 costs and access issued their report which included a recommendation  
5 to give individuals and families more choice in selecting private  
6 insurance plans that work for them. This recommendation specifically  
7 stated, "Washington needs a multipronged approach to tackle the  
8 challenges facing our uninsured population. Over half of Washington's  
9 total uninsured population consists of young adults ages nineteen to  
10 thirty-four. In addition, fifty thousand are employees of small  
11 businesses who have incomes in excess of two hundred percent of the  
12 federal poverty level. Providing these and other individuals  
13 affordable insurance options in the private market will go a long way  
14 in decreasing the number of uninsured in the state"; and

15 (2) State budget cuts to existing government health care programs  
16 such as the basic health plan, general assistance unemployable, and  
17 Medicaid, demonstrate the unsustainability of government health care  
18 programs and the need to reform the private health insurance market  
19 instead of expanding government health care programs which are  
20 intended to be safety net programs for our most vulnerable citizens"

21  
22 On page 1, line 13 of the amendment, after "physicians" insert "in  
23 the private health insurance market"

24  
25 On page 2, line 15 of the amendment, after "growth" strike all  
26 material through "revenue" on line 16 and insert "and limit the  
27

1 government's role in health care to facilitating and subsidizing  
2 health care for the poor and disabled.

3 (i) Encourage rather than mandate employer contributions to  
4 employees' health care. No reform plan shall include any type of tax  
5 or fee on employers or employees, or require employers to provide or  
6 pay for health insurance for their employees"

7

8 On page 5, line 9 of the amendment, strike "and"

9

10 On page 5, line 11 of the amendment, after "purchasing" insert "  
11 and

12 (d) Reforms in the private health insurance market to provide  
13 individuals and employers more affordable health insurance options"

14

**EFFECT:** Provides and alternative legislative finding related to  
specific recommendations of the blue ribbon commission on health  
care costs and access. States that a principle of health care  
reform should be expanded choice in the private health insurance  
market. An additional principle of health care reform would be to  
limit the government's role by focusing on the poor and disabled,  
and encouraging employers to offer health coverage for their  
employees.

--- END ---